(c) the measures envisaged to check falling profits of ITDC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) With a view to develop tourism, ITDC have decided to construct new hotels at Chandigarh and Anandpursahib. As regards disinvestment of ITDC, no decision has so far been taken by the Government.

(c) The measures taken by ITDC to check declining trend of profitability include *inter alia* enhanced emphasis on product improvement; aggressive marketing plan; training/motivation of manpower, periodical review of performance at Corporate/Ministry level and cost control by exercising economy in expenditure.

Development Plan for Domestic and External Tourism

1235. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the comprehensive development plan for domestic and external tourism in the country;

(b) the profits from tourism industry in the country; and

(c) the measures to be taken by Government for development of tourism industry in the North-Eastern region State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The comprehensive development plan for tourism includes Infrastructure development, Product development and diversification, Promotion of self employment opportunities, Tourist Facilitation, Human Resource Development, Research and Computerisation, Promotion and Marketing, Environmental Protection and Cultural Preservation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Provision of Incentives and Strengthening the organisation.

(b) The Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism during 1997-98 were Rs. 11032.69 crores.

(c) To develop tourism in the North Eastern region, Ministry of Tourism has extended Central financial assistance during 1997-98 as per details given below:

State	Projects	Amt. Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
Arunachal Pradesh	9	270.00
Assam	12	288.88
Manipur	5	186.11
Meghalaya	5	85.70
Mizoram	6	142.45
Nagaland	4	116.90
Tripura	8	126.68
TOTAL	49	1217.72

For the year 1998-99, Ministry of Tourism has prioritised 77 projects amounting to Rs. 1603 lakhs for Central Financial Assistance to North Eatern region.

कैलाश-मानसरोवर मार्ग

1236. **श्री कुशोक नवांग चम्बा स्तनजिन:** क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या लद्दाख के लोगों ने कैलाश-मानसरोवर मार्ग को वहां से खोलने के लिए कई बार सरकार से अनुरोध किया है;

(ख) क्या देनचोक से यह मार्ग न केवल आसान और सुरक्षित है बल्कि कैलाश तक की दूरी दो या तीन दिन में तय की जा सकती है; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में अब तक उठाए गए ठोस कदमों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओमाक अपांग): (क) से (ग) कैलाश मानसरोवर यात्रा की बढ़ती हुई लोकप्रियता, इसके वर्तमान मार्ग में आने वाली बाधाओं और सीमा के क्षेत्रों, विशेष रूप से लद्दाख के निवासियों के अनुरोध पर इस यात्रा के लिए एक विकल्प मार्ग बनाए जाने की संभावना वर्ष 1992 से विचाराधीन है। इस अवधि के दौरान चीन की ओर से काफी सुझाव रखे गए। वर्ष 1993 में यह प्रस्ताव किया गया कि एक विकल्प मार्ग, हिमाचल प्रदेश में शिमकी